AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims of the present application as set forth below.

5   1.   (Currently Amended) A method of creating a predecessor logical disk that is a snapshot of a successor logical disk, wherein the successor logical disk is defined by user data stored in a plurality of uniquely identifiable PSEGS and by metadata including an L2MAP having a plurality of LMAP pointers, one or more LMAPs including a plurality of RSD pointers, and one
10   or more RDSs having a plurality of PSEG pointers, comprising the steps of:

creating a predecessor PLDMC;

creating ~~an~~ one or more LMAP~~s~~ for the predecessor logical disk;

populating the one or more LMAP~~s~~ for the predecessor logical disk with RSD pointers from one or more LMAP~~s associated with~~ the successor
15   logical disk;

creating an L2MAP for the predecessor logical disk;

populating the L2MAP for the predecessor logical disk with one or more pointers to one or more predecessor LMAP records ~~the LMAP pointers from the predecessor logical disk~~;

20   setting one or more share bits in the one or more LMAPs for the predecessor logical disk and the successor logical disk to indicate that the user data is being shared; and

setting one or more share bits in the successor PLDMC to indicate that the data is being shared.

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2.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the step of populating the one or more LMAP~~s~~ for the predecessor logical disk with RSD pointers ~~from the successor logical disk~~ comprises copying RSD pointers.

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3.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein I/O operations to the successor logical disk are quiesced for a predetermined period of time.

4.   (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined period of time corresponds to the time required to construct the predecessor logical disk.

5   5.   (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a write operation directed to memory located in an identified segment(s) of the successor logical disk;

in response to the write operation, copying the identified segment(s)
10   to the predecessor logical disk; and

executing the write operation in the successor logical disk.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of:

15   clearing share bits in the one or more LMAPs for the predecessor logical disk and the successor logical disk to indicate that the identified segments are no longer being shared; and

clearing share bits in the successor PLDMC to indicate that identified segments are no longer being shared.

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7.   Canceled